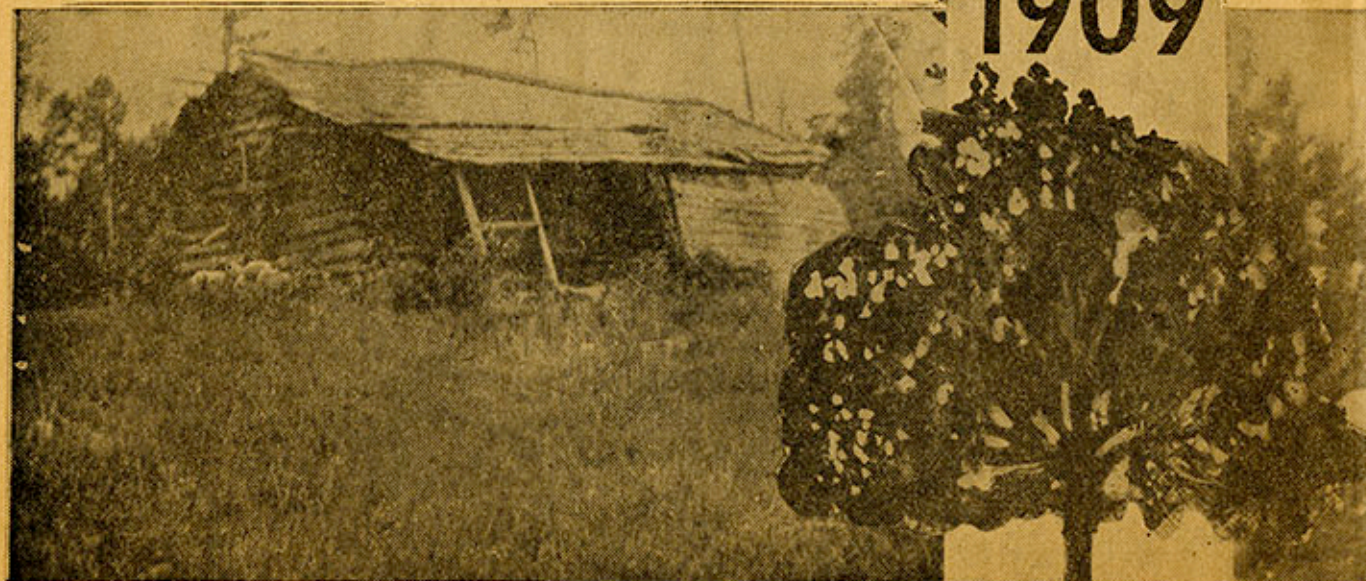


The Piney Woods Country Life School

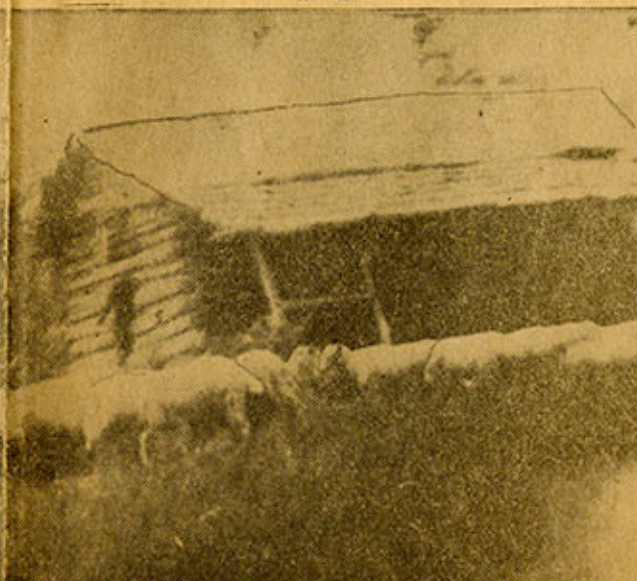
Piney Woods,

1909

Mississippi



Hundred year old Log Cabin—sheep coming out of the end.



The sheep running across the front of the cabin which has been their home since a family of ex-slaves had moved to Jackson.



A SCHOOL OPENS—Depriving the sheep of their home, Laurence Jones cleaned it out, whitewashed it inside and outside and moved his students from under the old cedar tree into the log cabin—the first school house, the first group of students—Laurence Jones on the stool—the first teacher.

The old cedar tree under which the first class was taught, after opening up with the Bible reading, prayer and a song, "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow" and the old spiritual—"Keep Inclin' Along Like a Poor Inch Worm, Jesus Will Come By and By," and He did.



Geese — her contribution. Georgia Byrd had no money to give, but the spirit was willing, so the widow's mite — two geese.



The first faculty in the old log cabin in which boys and girls went to school instead of housing sheep.

THE FIRST FACULTY—Left to right—Wm. F. Yancey—Laurence C. Jones—Miss Mary Martin, Standing—Mrs. Wm. Yancey—Miss Docia Weathersby.

1915



These pictures trot back memories - Any way I got to know you there & that is worth so much to me!

UNDER A CEDAR TREE AT PINEY WOODS

By J. O. EMMERICH, Esq., Editor & Publisher
Enterprise-Journal, McComb, Miss.

When a newspaperman experiences something and wishes all the while that he had a typewriter before him so that he could be hammering out his impressions — well, whatever the experience is, it clicks. Thus it was with J. O. Emmerich when he visited Piney Woods School.

This story starts under a cedar tree over a century old, and near a spring of cool running water in front of an old log cabin which was one of the slavery day cabins of an earlier Mississippi. This picturesque spot is now a part of the modern day Piney Woods school; and, here as a young Iowa State University graduate (Iowa City), Dr. Laurence Jones drank from this spring and sat under this tree and read . . . and dreamed.

It was in the year 1909 that Dr. Jones, now one of the Nation's foremost Negro educators, was reading under the cedar tree while a Negro lad of 16 sat beside him. Dr. Jones handed him the book and pointed to a certain paragraph. The Negro boy handed the book back with the explanation that he could not read: "Then I will teach you," said the young Dr. Jones.

The next day at the same hour, he met that colored boy at the spring under the cedar tree. The second day, the boy brought a friend along with him and, at the month's end, more than 40 Negro youths had signified that they wanted to learn more about reading and writing. This is how Piney Woods School, Piney Woods, Miss., was conceived.

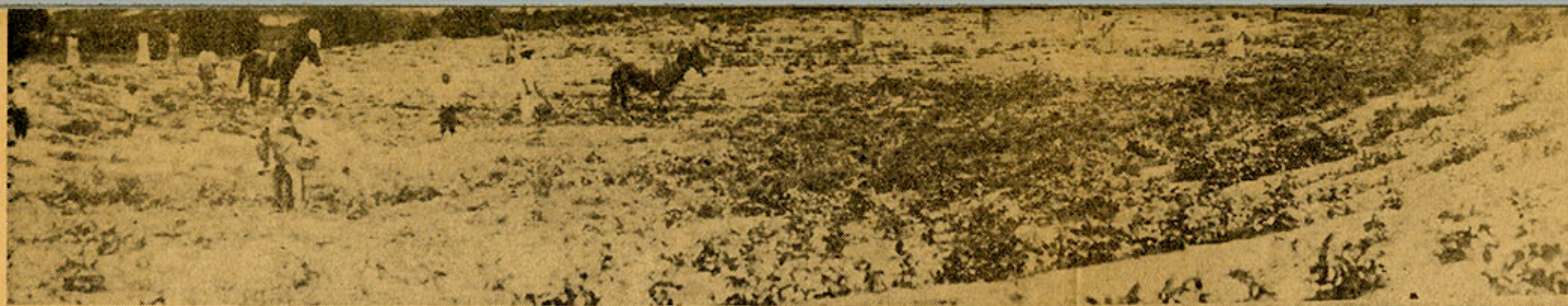
First Dr. Jones moved the sheep out of the log cabin and used it as his home and as a school house. The demands grew and Dr. Jones grew with them. As was said some time ago in The Reader's Digest, Dr. Jones worked as if the whole job of building the school depended upon him and he prayed as if the whole job depended upon God.

Dr. Jones showed this scribe through his dairy barn, one of the most practical in Mississippi. The school has a herd of Ayrshires. Asked why he had this breed, he replied. "The maker of Mentholatum is a friend of ours. He wanted to have a supply of fresh milk for his children so he developed a herd of Ayrshires. Then the children grew up and he put the cattle in a car and shipped them down to us."

The budget of the school is raised practically from private subscriptions . . . And, as these donations from a dollar to a thousand dollars must come in year after year, it is obvious that there are a lot of people who have complete confidence in the integrity and ability of Dr. Jones.

The library recently completed would dignify the campus of a university. Said Dr. Jones, "More than 2,000 Southern white people made contributions to build this library."

The campus has a rock sunken garden that was built by the school boys with rock which they quarried from their own grounds. A lake is stocked with game fish, roads wind amid colorful buildings; and on the campus is heard the hum of buzz saws, the clanking of flywheels on an offset press, the voices of instructors teaching colored youths how to repair a motor or make brick for the edifices under construction on the campus.



Cedar Tree and Log Cabin.
Donkey—first farm animal
cost \$15 made a garden.

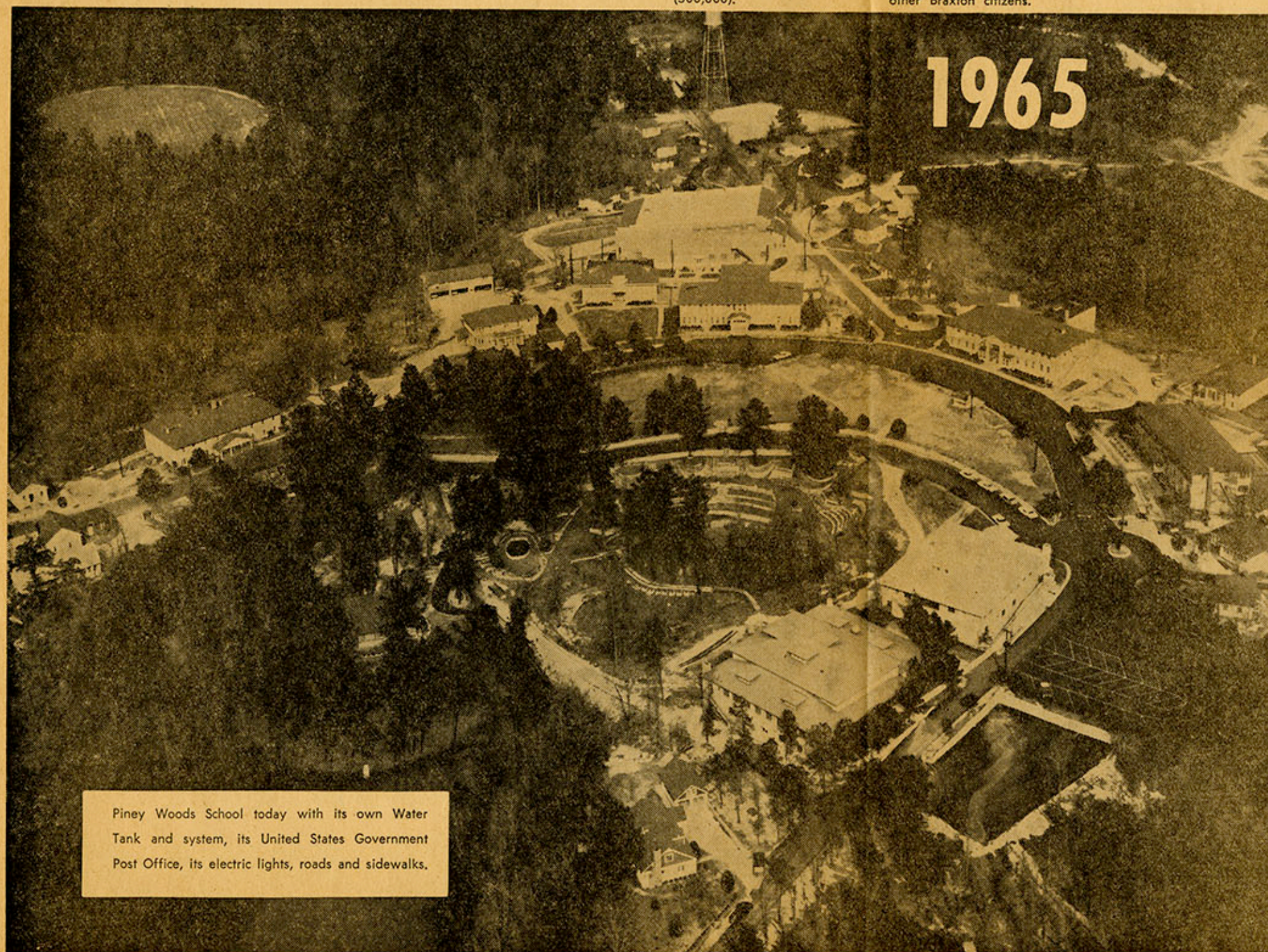
First frame building—school
rooms and chapel from
lumber mostly given by
the late John R. Webster.

Two small Handicraft build-
ings.

A new log cabin with lean-
to where the first Pine
Torch was printed—an edi-
tion of '65. The Pine Torch
now has a circulation of
five hundred thousand
(500,000).

BRAXTON HALL
The two story frame build-
ing. Money for this build-
ing mostly donated by the
late W. P. Mangum, J. P.
Cox, and Frem Everett, and
other Braxton citizens.

Small building on the right
—first laundry building at
Piney Woods School.



1965

Piney Woods School today with its own Water
Tank and system, its United States Government
Post Office, its electric lights, roads and sidewalks.

But the greatest factor about Piney Woods School is the attitude of the teachers and students. Their manners are pleasing. Their conduct is orderly. The personality of the campus bespeaks discipline without dictatorship, and respect for authority . . . And while visiting the classes, this writer observed that the youths were also learning something to make them more skilled in the crafts of the commonwealth.

A state with skilled individuals is richer than a state with unskilled workmen. Dr. Jones is making his contribution to his race through the skill by which he is passing on ideals that are being planted in the hearts and minds of students.

It was this editor's good fortune to address the student body. A message was centered about the thought recently taken from Charles Lindberg's book, "Of Flight and Life." Said the author, "We cannot escape the fact that our civilization has been built, and still depends, upon the quality rather than the equality of men." The upward search for equality of opportunity is not to be shunned but the fact remains that, when men place the emphasis upon the problems of humanity, the problem of equality vanish . . . And Dr. Jones and his faculty are seeking to build a race of quality men and women.

After the classes had been visited and the students were seen eating a well-planned meal in the dining hall; after the farm had been visited and the speech had been delivered and the sun commenced to lower itself in the west; Dr. Jones went back with this writer to the shade of that cedar tree within the sound of that babbling brook near the old log cabin where once the goats romped and played. Under that tree now is the grave of the school president's mate who helped him through the early years . . . It is hallowed ground.

With this note of pathos springing out of the past and the achievements of the present all about and the promise of new horizons in the future, there was a moment of pensiveness. Said Dr. Jones, "If I had to live my life over again, I would choose to do just what I have done" . . . And it was done well because he worked as if it all depended upon him and he prayed as if it all depended upon God. He didn't let God down and God held high his hands of service.

A slab of marble should be placed on the Piney Woods campus and this should be inscribed upon it : :Some men so live that they lift their age so that all men walk on higher ground." Above the inscription should be chiseled "Laurence Clifton Jones."

FORM OF BEQUEST

Our friends are requested to give the school some aid in the way of testamentary bequests. Its corporate name is The Piney Woods Country Life School; and Piney Woods, Mississippi, should be added in specification of the place.

Visitors . . . Always Welcome!

THE PINE TORCH

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